



Testimony
Betsy Gara
Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST)
Before the Commerce Committee
March 18, 2014

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) *supports* **HB-485: AN ACT CONCERNING EXPEDITED PERMITTING FOR PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT SITES IDENTIFIED BY MUNICIPALITIES.**

HB-485 would allow municipalities to designate municipal land that is zoned for commercial or industrial sites as a priority development site. As a priority development site, a piece of land would be eligible for accelerated review of permit applications through the Department of Economic and Community Development's Office of Permit Ombudsman under general statutes section 32-728.

COST supports this legislation because it would encourage economic development in towns by expediting the permitting process. The permitting process can be lengthy and COST appreciates that the legislature is addressing this issue by expanding the type of parcels of land that may be considered a priority development site and therefore eligible for expedited review. COST believes that this bill is a good measure that would be helpful to encourage towns to consider developing land that is zoned for commercial or industrial sites.

Therefore, COST supports **HB-485: AN ACT CONCERNING EXPEDITED PERMITTING FOR PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT SITES IDENTIFIED BY MUNICIPALITIES.**